

## Turn Around Don't Drown Factsheet



Each year more deaths occur due to flooding than from any other storm related hazard. This is because people underestimate the force and power of water. Many of the deaths occur in automobiles, as they are swept downstream.

Whether you are driving or walking, if you come to a flooded road or area, Turn Around Don't Drown. You will not know the depth or the condition of the road under the water.

Six inches of fast-moving water can knock you off your feet and most cars can be swept away in 18 – 24 inches of moving water. Even large trucks and SUVs can get washed away. Remember that aircraft carriers float and they are much heavier than your car or truck! Once your car floats the water will sweep it sideways downstream and often roll to one side or flip over. If walking and swept downstream you will become caught on other objects such as log jams, fences, poles or posts and held there by the force of the water.

The Center for Disease Control reports more than half of all flood-related drownings occur when a vehicle is driven into hazardous flood waters. The next highest percentage of flood-related deaths is due to walking into or near flood waters. The majority of the victims are males, but flood deaths affect all age groups. Many people in Frederick County have died in flood waters in the past when they either drove into water or walked too close to dangerous flooding.

Another hazard of flooding in urban areas is the amount of chemicals mixed into the water as it passes through houses and businesses. These chemicals can cause severe health problems for many years after the contact with flood waters.

### **The solution is simple. Turn Around Don't Drown**

- Stay out of flooded roads and waters
- Monitor NOAA Weather Radio or your favorite news source for vital weather related information and warnings
- If you live in area with water crossings plan now how to avoid those areas in times of heavy rain
- Respect "road closed" signs and barriers

Let caution, good sense, your personal safety and your family's well being be your guides

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